UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 September 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 9 September 1996 addressed to you by His Excellency Rauf Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in connection with the latest incident on the island, which involves the murder of a Turkish Cypriot soldier and the serious wounding of another by a Greek Cypriot special military unit.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 58 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus

APPENDIX

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktas addressed to the Secretary-General

Since my last letter to you, dated 21 August 1996, further armed attacks and fatal violence have been directed towards Turkish Cypriot security forces within our borders.

It was the possibility of such violent armed attacks by the Greek Cypriot side, aimed at destabilizing the situation on the island, which, I am sure, prompted Your Excellency to suggest a face-to-face meeting between myself and Mr. Clerides and the release of a joint statement aimed at reducing the tension.

Sharing your sentiments, I, as you will recall, had promptly agreed. Mr. Clerides, however, saw no benefit in any move aimed at calming inflamed emotions.

Yesterday's murder of a Turkish Cypriot soldier and the serious wounding of another by a Greek Cypriot special military unit leads me to believe that the Greek Cypriot side, however, mistakenly, sees some advantages in heightened tension and violence. I myself do not share this belief.

Hence, with this letter, I feel duty bound to convey to you the grim details of this premeditated murder which occurred within the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

At approximately 4 a.m. on the morning of 8 September 1996, two soldiers from the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces fell victim to a cold-blooded attack while on guard duty. One of the Turkish Cypriot soldiers was instantly killed, while the other was seriously injured and is currently under intensive care.

The assailants violated the border of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the Kavercinlik area, by crossing a road within and under the control of the British Sovereign Base Area Authorities.

All available evidence indicates that this murder was the work of a specially trained unit of professional soldiers belonging to the Greek Cypriot National Guard. Empty shells compatible with Kalashnikov assault rifles were found near the scene of the attack. This particular weapon is commonly used in the Greek Cypriot National Guard arsenal and is issued to the Greek Cypriot militia.

This totally unprovoked attack was carried out under the cover of darkness and can only have been launched with the use of night vision equipment and by professionally trained personnel. Tracer bullets, also part of military equipment, were used.

Further investigations have revealed that plastic explosives were planted under a bridge on the SBA road, approximately 50 metres from the Turkish Cypriot

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enemy post. The tactics and weapons used in this attack bear the unmistakable hallmarks of a carefully pre-planned military operation.

I sincerely hope that the United Nations and the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) will strongly condemn and protest this criminal act with Mr. Clerides and stress upon him the utmost urgency of face to face talks as soon as possible in order to avert further loss of life. Mr. Clerides can no longer claim there is "no common ground" for negotiations to restart. If he genuinely wants a mutually acceptable solution and if he sincerely has any respect for the sanctity of human life he will come to the table and help strive for a solution. The parameters set out in your set of ideas should provide us with ample ground for result-oriented negotiation provided the Greek Cypriot side stops aspiring to convert Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot Republic.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President